

LAW OFFICES OF
McGINN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP, PLLC

A PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
PATENTS, TRADEMARKS, COPYRIGHTS, AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW
8321 OLD COURTHOUSE ROAD, SUITE 200
VIENNA, VIRGINIA 22182-3817
TELEPHONE: (703) 761-4100
FACSIMILE/DATA: (703) 761-2375; 761-2376
E-MAIL: ADMIN @ MCGINNIPLAW.COM
SENDER'S E-MAIL: PMCGEE @ MCGINNIPLAW.COM

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SEAN M. MCGINN
PHILLIP E. MILLER†
FREDERICK E. COOPERRIDER†
SCOTT M. TULINO
DONALD J. LECHER
PETER F. MCGEE†
DONALD A. DIPAULA†
†MEMBER OF BAR OTHER THAN VA

August 22, 2007

VIA FACSIMILE
(8 Pages Total)

To: Examiner Joshua T. Kennedy
Group Art Unit No. 3679
U.S.P.T.O.
BOX AF

Facsimile No.: (571) 273-8300

From: Peter F. McGee

Facsimile No.: (703) 761-2375

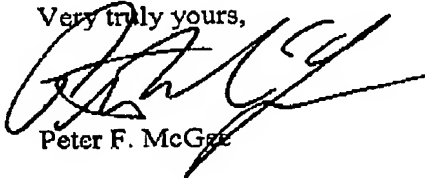
Re: Enclosed Preliminary Amendment
U.S. Patent Application Serial No.: 10/773,573
Our Reference: NGB.357

Dear Examiner Kennedy:

Enclosed is a Preliminary Amendment in the referenced application, for which a Request for Continued Examination was filed on August 20, 2007. We request that you enter the Preliminary Amendment, which should place the application in condition for allowance.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration on this case.

Very truly yours,



Peter F. McGee

PMcG/SMM/jr
Enclosure

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I certify that I transmitted via facsimile to (571) 273-8300 the Preliminary Amendment to Examiner Joshua T. Kennedy, Art Unit 3679, on August 22, 2007.



Peter F. McGee
Registration No. 55,947

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Kojima et al.

Serial No.: 10/773,573

Group Art Unit: 3679

Filed: February 9, 2004

Examiner: Joshua T. Kennedy

For: SECURING CLIP

**Mall Stop AF
Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313 - 1450**

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Advisory Action dated August 10, 2007, Applicants filed a Request for Continued Examination on August 20, 2007. Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are shown beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks are provided in a section beginning on page 7 of this paper.